

9 March 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: AC/TSS/R&D

SUBJECT: Synthesis of Attributable Speech, Employee
Suggestion No. 1282, []

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1. This is in response to [] communication of February 25th, attaching [] memorandum of February 23rd from the Communications Working Group to the Executive Group of the DD/P Materiel Board. This memorandum recommends the placing of a requirement for the investigation of the above-identified suggestion.

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2. [] ideas have developed since he originally submitted his suggestion; and he now thinks that outright fabrication of sound tracks on film will seldom be necessary, since case officers will probably be able to secure recordings of all necessary words (par. 7 of his memorandum of 4 February 1955.) However, amplification or attenuation of the recordings to secure the necessary emphasis would still be necessary.

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3. If recordings of all necessary words are going to be available, it would seem much simpler to work with magnetic tape recordings. Patching the tape is very simple mechanically and has no effect on the words of any speech, provided that the words are clear and distinct, and not slurred together. Amplification or attenuation to secure the necessary emphasis would also seem to be straightforward. In addition all of the problems of photography are avoided. [] still feels however, that drawing of variable-area sound tracks by hand would be necessary in order to take care of slurred words which are cut apart and for outright fabrication, if that should be necessary.

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4. If the Materiel Board places a formal requirement for investigation of this suggestion, the next step would be to consult several acoustic specialists, both in the Government and outside of it, whom [] and I have in mind. After getting their opinions further consideration of the matter would be in order.

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